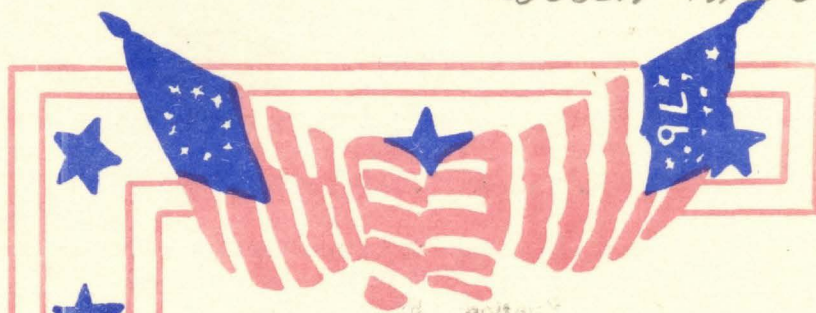


Lowell-History



CEDAR CREEK
TOWNSHIP



1776-1976



THE BEGINNINGS

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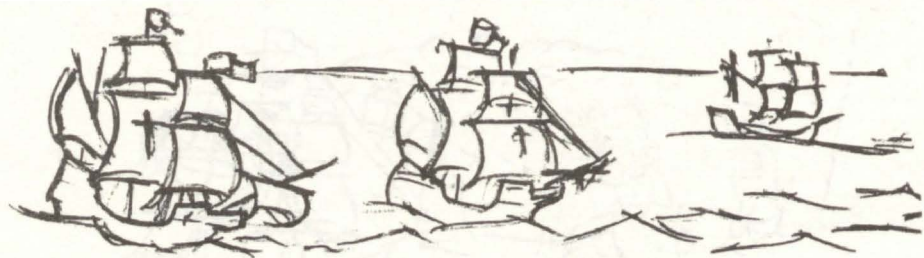
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THE BEGINNINGS

O BEAUTIFUL FOR SPACIOUS SKIES, FOR AMBER WAVES OF
GRAIN, FOR PURPLE MOUNTAIN MAJESTIES ABOVE THE FRUIT-
ED PLAIN! AMERICA! AMERICA! GOD SHED HIS GRACE ON THEE
AND CROWN THY GOOD WITH BROTHERHOOD FROM SEA TO
SHINING SEA!

This stanza from "America the Beautiful," which you have probably sung many times, expresses the pride that Americans feel in our country. We are stirred by thoughts of her beautiful landscapes, and of the wealth and power which make the United States today the greatest nation on earth. But we are even prouder of the freedoms for which our country stands. We are grateful for our right to speak, to write, and to worship as we choose.

In this pamphlet, you will read the story that tells how our country and our town of Lowell grew in a short time from a small group of hardy settlers to a mighty nation — a nation where millions of people have the right to lead free, useful, and happy lives. It is one of the most exciting stories you can ever read.

The history of our country might be compared to the steps in a long, long walk — a long march from the past to the present. Many people have taken part in this march of history, and we ourselves are taking the steps which mark the present. What the future steps may be, we do not know. By looking back at the steps taken in the past and at the people who took them however, we may learn how to direct our own steps better in the present and the future.

The march of American history did not begin in this country, but in Europe. In the first section, therefore, we shall turn to a new world across the waters.

One sunny morning in the autumn of 1492, the natives living on a tiny island near what we now call Florida stared in amazement at a strange and wonderful sight. Three ships, much larger than any native canoe, were floating offshore. Smaller boats were skimming toward the land. When the boats landed on the beach, men leaped



ashore -- men unlike any the natives had ever seen. The natives stared at the strangers -- at their white skin, their beards, and the many garments they wore.

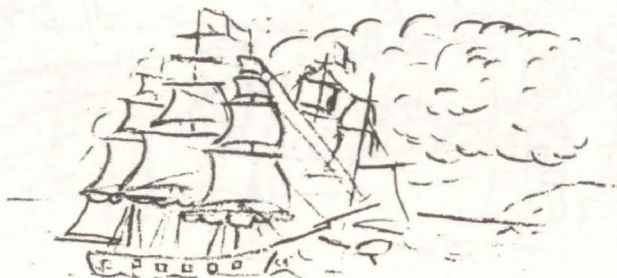
Neither the naked red men nor their white visitors realized it, but this was a fateful event in the history of the world. It was the day on which Europeans began to learn that there was a great New World about which they knew nothing at all. It was the day when the exciting story of America began.

To get the most out of that story, we need to glance back and see what had been happening in Europe to bring about this great discovery. The Europeans had for a long time lived a simple life, shut off in a small world of their own. Most of them knew nothing about the rest of the world. But when the European Crusaders rode off to fight the Modammedans for control of the Holy Land, they learned to like the fine clothing, precious jewels, and rich foods of Asia. As a result, they became more and more interested in the rest of the world. Each king in Europe now wanted to find his own route to Asia and the Far East. He wanted to enjoy the luxuries of the East, and he wanted his country to become rich. When Columbus thought he could find Asia by sailing around the globe, the King and Queen of Spain gave him money for the voyage but Columbus found the New World instead.

Not often does an old world find a new one. For hundreds upon hundreds of years Europe had known only itself and the nearby areas of Africa and Asia. But beginning in the 1500's its daring explorers found a whole new world -- North and Central and South America-- and a world, at that, which was thinly populated.

The Europeans believed that through the Americas they could gain wealth and power, and so they came to the Americas in large numbers. Spain found a mighty empire when the Spanish conqueror, Cortez, defeated Montezuma, a great Indian leader whose empire was destroyed so that Spain might establish her own empire in the New World. The next important event in the history of the New World was the landing of the English Pilgrims at Plymouth Rock in what is now Massachusetts. From there on more and more settlers came to live in the Americas. One group of pilgrims settled at Plymouth.

The early months of the Pilgrims in Plymouth Colony were



hard ones. The settlers battled with cold, hunger, and lurking death in the unknown wilderness. In the fall of 1621, however, they gathered a good harvest and looked forward to the coming winter with hope and courage. Governor William Bradford, grateful to God for the good fortune of the colony, set aside a day for thanksgiving and prayer. A great feast was held, to which friendly Indians were invited. This was the first Thanksgiving Day.

The next important time segment in the building of America was when the New World began to cut many of the ties that bound it to the Old World. This was a time of battles, of revolutions, and of heroic struggles for freedom. Brave men fought for what they believed to be right; old empires died and new nations were born. The spirit of freedom swept across the New World. As a result England had to give up her Thirteen Colonies, and Spain lost most of her vast colonial empire.

A new nation, like a young man, must make a place for itself in the world. The average young man wants to be successful in his job, popular among friends, happy in his family life. When first he leaves school and goes to work, he is little known and untested. What he does as he starts out will determine whether he travels the path to success and happiness, or another road that lends to disappointment and failure.

The men who helped the United States win its independence had high hopes for the nation's future. They wanted it to be strong and prosperous and respected, and they wanted its citizens to be happy under the new government. For the nation to become independent, however, was not enough. It must establish a strong government for its people and be able to take its place among other nations. Like the young man beginning his career, it was unknown and untried. Only the test of the years could determine whether the hopes of the founders were to be fulfilled.

There were many important events that happened during this crucial period. George Washington was named the first President of the United States. The new nation soon ran into trouble, however, especially in its relations with European countries. As a result, the War of 1812 with the British began. Despite these troubles, the nation was soon strong enough so that President Monroe was able



to announce that the United States would not allow European countries to interfere in the affairs of the Western Hemisphere.

Throughout the years the United States grew and prospered. The northeastern part of the country became a shipping and manufacturing center. The South became a great cotton-producing section. The West developed and became the most democratic section of the country, and the whole United States became more democratic and the common man became important.

The early inhabitants of the region we now call Indiana were nomadic Indians whose mounds still can be seen in various parts of the state. Later, farming Indians took the place of the nomadic tribes. The Indians inhabiting the area when the first settlers arrived, however, were the warlike, hunting tribes who had entered the state after 1600.

The first known white man to set foot in Indiana was the French explorer, Robert Cavalier de LaSalle, who crossed the St. Joseph-Kankakee River portage in 1679. Before 1720 the French had established trading post near the present sites of Fort Wayne and Lafayette. French settlers founded Vincennes and shortly thereafter established the first church of Indiana. The records of this church are the oldest, continuous records to be found in the state dating back to 1749.

As a result of the French and Indian War, the territory embracing Indiana became an English possession. But when England forbade the colonists to settle in the "New World" this edict became one of the causes of the Revolution. This fact, coupled with the Virginian, George Rogers Clark's capture of Vincennes and the western territory, has given Indiana a noticeable place in the War of Independence. Clark was granted 150,000 acres of land in the area now including Clark County, which was named for him. Clark County was settled in 1784 and today the George Rogers Clark state memorial at Vincennes commemorates his place in Indiana history.

After England ceded the western lands, they were claimed by the Continental Congress, which called them the "Northwest Territory." As settlers began moving into the region, Congress enacted the Ordinance of 1787 for the administration of the new



territory. In addition to providing machinery for territorial government the law forbade slavery in the area and encouraged education by setting apart one section in each township, presumably to be sold and the proceeds to go for the establishment of schools.

When the Northwest Territory was divided in 1800, the Indiana Territory, including the present states of Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, and part of Minnesota, was organized. William Henry Harrison was provisions in the Ordinance of 1787. Two major problems faced the new governor -- organizing the government of the new territory and securing the land from the Indians.

By 1810 Indiana was reduced to its present size by the detachment of the Illinois and Michigan Territories. By the time Indiana entered the Union as the Nineteenth state on December 11, 1816, most of its inhabitants lived in what was approximately the lower third of the state, the remainder still being held by the Indians. The Battle of Tippecanoe, near Lafayette, is considered to have broken the power of the Indians and was Harrison's best remembered military victory.

The basic law of Indiana from 1816 to 1851 was the first state Constitution, parts of which are reputed to have been written beneath a huge elm tree in Corydon, the first state capital. This was a brief document and very democratic for the age. Its authors borrowed heavily from the constitutions and practices of neighboring Kentucky and Ohio as well as from the federal Constitution. The Hoosier document prohibited slavery and made it the duty of the state to establish a free public school system, including a "state university."

The 1816 Constitution also created the state offices of governor, secretary of state, treasurer, auditor, state senators and representatives, and Supreme and Circuit Court judges. Of these, only the governor, lieutenant governor, senators and representatives were elected by the voters.

In the first state elections, held on August 5, 1816, 32-year-old Jonathan Jennings of Charlestown, who, like most Hoosier politicians of the time, was a Jeffersonian Republican, became Indiana's first chief executive at an annual salary of \$1,000. In this as in other early Indiana elections, no caucuses, conventions, or



primaries were held to choose party candidates. The candidates merely made formal announcements of the candidacies and proceeded to campaign for elections.

The first Constitution explicitly created the county offices of sheriff, coroner, clerk, and recorder, and the township office of justice of the peace, all of whom were elected by the voters. The Constitution further stated "all town and township officers shall be appointed in such manner as directed by law," thus leaving to the General Assembly the authority to set up the further organization of local government.

The building of the east-to west National Road and the south-to west National Road and the south-to-north Michigan Road in the state in the late 1820's and early 1830's together construction of canals in Ohio, spurred up much interest in transporation in the state. Also spurred by the success of the Erie Canal in New York state, plus being urged by the ever-present need for better transportation, Indiana embarked upon the "canal era" with the enactment by the legislature of the "Mammoth Internal Improvement Bill."

Carrying an appropriation of \$13 million, which represented well more than 10 percent of the state's total assessed valuation, the act provided for a vast network of canals throughout the state plus turnpikes and a railroad. One year later the "Panic of 1837" struck the nation. The state government bacame bankrupt and defaulted on its payment of the railroads, spelled the doom of the canals.

The effect of this experience is still in the minds of Hoosiers, for the Indiana Constitution now forbids the state to go into debt, obligations of the general revenues of the state and local government-tal units are restricted to debts not exceeding two percent of their assessed valuations.

In 1852, the state capital was moved from Corydon to its present central location at Indianapolis. In the same year, Indiana Seminary, having been chartered five years previously, opened its doors to students at Bloomington. The Seminary was the forerunner of Indiana University. In the 1840's the state founded its first mental institution and created schools for the blind and deaf. In a referendum in 1849, Indiana voters asked that a constitutional convention be held to draft a new constitution that would reflect the state's increased



responsibilities that accompanied growth and progress. Indiana, during the 1840-1850 decade, was among the first states to begin granting women equal rights by permitting them to make wills.

Indiana was high among the states supporting the Union. More than 210,000 Hoosiers served in the Northern forces, and 24,416 died in service -- the greatest blood sacrifice in Indiana military history. A move to honor Indiana's Civil War dead resulted in the erection of the Soldiers and Sailors Monument now standing in Monument Circle in Indianapolis. The shaft-type monument is now dedicated to the memory of Hoosiers who died in all wars prior to World War I.

According to journalists of the era, there was a general let down in morality and respect for law immediately following the war. One of the more general effects was that the development of the public school system was delayed because of concentration of the state's resources toward the war effort. The State Soldiers' and Sailors' Home and the Soldiers' and Sailors' Children Home were begun as a combined institutions to care for those disabled, widowed, or orphaned by the war.

On the economic side, characteristics of a period of transition were evident. The use of machinery in industry had risen sharply during the war and farming was made more efficient by the introduction of the reaper binder, and mower. Transportation by water and rail was being improved and gravel was beginning to be use on Hoosier roads. Cities, receiving the impact of mechanization, multiplied and grew.

The necessities of war brought on technical improvements in Hoosier agriculture and industry in a comparatively brief period of time. With the ending of hostilities, industry, armed with new techniques was prepared to manufacture many and varied articles for the American consumer. Less immediate, but certainly not less significant causes of Indiana being caught up in the "industrial revolution," were its location and natural resources, a good governmental environment, and improvements in transporation. In the decades immediately preceding the Civil War, Indiana's railroad mileage was increased 10 times, from 220 miles to 2,200 miles of rails. This with its location between two great waterways, the Ohio River to the

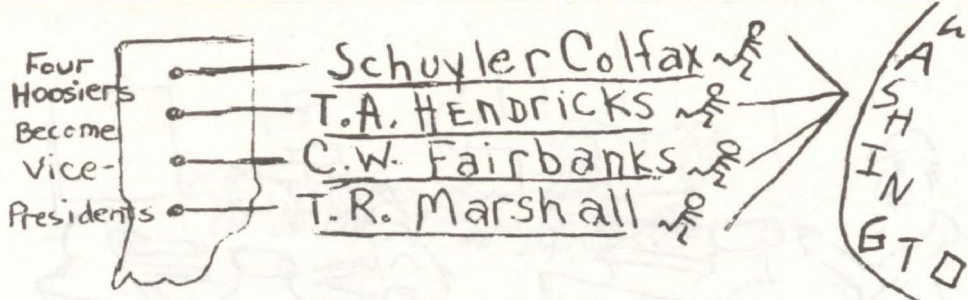


south and Lake Michigan to the north, coupled with its centralized location, truly make Indiana the "Cross roads of America."

In 1888, Benjamin Harrison, an Indianapolis resident, was elected president of the United States on the Republican ticket. The Columbia Club in Indianapolis was founded as a marching society to elect Harrison. Purdue University received its charter as a land grant college in 1869 and began operating five years later in 1874. In 1881, the amendment restricting debts of local units of government to two percent of assessed valuation was inserted in the state Constitution. The Australian ballot, designed to protect secrecy in voting — the type of paper ballot used in Indiana today in many places — was introduced in Indiana elections in 1889 as a result of "vote buying" scandals in the state. In 1891 a general revision of the state's tax laws was enacted after an aroused public called for tax reforms. The State Board of Tax Commissioners was created and the "Indiana Plan" of setting local tax rates and making appropriations was inaugurated to promote equalization of property taxation. The first compulsory education law, requiring attendance at school for children six to 14 years of age, was enacted in 1897. Indiana's choice location led to the world's largest oil refinery being built at Whiting in 1889 and to the rise of a great steel industry in the Calumet region in Lake County.

As Indiana prepared to celebrate its first hundred years of statehood Hoosiers expressed their deep interest in things political. A new Constitution was drafted in 1909-1911, but the action was invalidated by the Supreme Court. The 1913 General Assembly then adopted 22 amendments embodying the new Constitution, but the 1915 session of the Assembly failed to readopt the amendments and the movement failed.

As has always been the case, Indiana responded well when the nation was at war in 1817-1918. The first shot fired by an American soldier in World War I was fired by an Hoosier, Sergeant Alexander Arch of South Bend, while the first American soldier killed in the war was also a Hoosier, Private James B. Gresham of Evansville. Of the 118,000 Indiana citizens who served in the armed forces in World War I, 3,350 died while in the service. Many deaths of both servicemen and civilians were caused by the disease of influenza,



which swept the whole nation during the war. In a special session in 1920, the Indiana General Assembly provided for a World War Memorial Plaza in downtown Indianapolis, which includes the memorial itself and national and state headquarter offices of the American Legion and its affiliated organizations.

Four Hoosiers have filled the office of vice president of the United States. Schuyler Colfax, of south Bend, one-time congressman from Indiana, was vice president during the term of Ulysses S. Grant from 1869 to 1873. Thomas A. Hendricks, Democrat, of Shelbyville and Indianapolis, governor from 1873 to 1877, was elected vice president with Grover Cleveland in 1884, but died after serving less then a year in office, Charles Warren Fairbanks of Indianapolis, Republican, a former U.S. senator from Indiana, ascended to the vice presidency in 1904 when President Theodore Roosevelt was elected. Indiana's two-term vice president was Thomas R. Marshall, a Democrat, born at North Manchester and later a resident of Columbia City, who serve with President Woodrow Wilson from 1913 to 1921. Marshall previously had served as governor of the state from 1909 to 1913.

Indiana, with the rest of the nation, witnessed the end of a war boom as the decade of the 1920's was ushered in with a "recession" in 1921. Following this, however, the intensification of mass production methods and technical advancements of the day, among other factors, resulted in a high level of prosperity. More and more Americans enjoyed new and better products. Hoosier cities grew and the state became more industrialized, largely as a result of a heavy concentration in the state of the automobile and other metal products industries, which continue to provide a large share of Hoosier industrial employment.

The economic "bubble" burst with the crash of the New York stock Market in 1929 and the decade came to an end in the same fashion as it had begin -- in an economic depression that was to have significant effects on Indiana.

In 1933, much legislation was passed including: revisions to the executive branch, new taxes, and increased state aid.

While the national defense effort of the early 1940's was, as the term implies, a nation-wide activity, it vitally and distinctly affected Indiana. Due largely to the factors attractive in industry



outlined earlier, plus its inland location that made the state comparatively safe from air attack, Indiana became the scene of intensive activity in the production of war goods. Existing factories were expanded, new factories were built, literally thousands of workers and their families were attracted to the state, and major military installation were constructed. Indiana ranked seventh among all states in the production of war materials.

In World War II, approximately 340,000 Hoosier men and women served in the armed forces. Of these, about 10,000 died while in the service of their country. Following the war, Indiana for the first time granted a cash bonus to its veterans and created a department devoted entirely to veterans' affairs.

From here on the legislation of Indiana changed and improved. In the 50's a state Department of Correction and a State Health Department were developed. Indiana entered the 60's as the country's eleventh largest state. In '65 everything was soaring, legislation was passed to support local public schools and the four state universities. The Department of Commerce was also given funds. In 1970 Indiana saw Indianapolis grow to be one of the nations largest cities, both in population and area.

As can be seen throughout this brief outline of Hoosier governmental history, succeeding years have brought both new and recurring problems to government in Indiana. Each legislature and each generation of citizens have had their own particular issues to face. Active participation by informed citizens of today and tomorrow is needed to assure the continuance of good government in the Hoosier state.³

When pioneer families came into Indiana, they needed to build shelters as quickly as possible. They first made "half-faced camps" in which to live. The camps were made by setting two large poles with forked tops into the ground a dozen or more feet from a fallen tree. Another pole was laid from the cross-pole down to the fallen tree to make a slanting roof. Over these poles a thick layer of brush was thrown. The two sides were built up with small logs placed one on top of another. The front was left open. Here a fire to cook the food was built. The shelter protected the family from the rain and wild animals during the summer months.



After the father and his sons cleared away some trees and planted their corn, they set about to build a log cabin that would be secure shelter in the winter months.

The pioneer needed the help of his neighbors to put up a log cabin. He sent word around the countryside that on a certain day he would have a house raising. All the pioneer families for miles around gathered to help him. The women came to cook and visit while the men worked. By helping each other they made homes in the wilderness.

The pioneer family often bought with them a chest of drawers, kitchen utensils, bedding, a spinning wheel, and a clock. All the other furniture for the cabin had to be made.

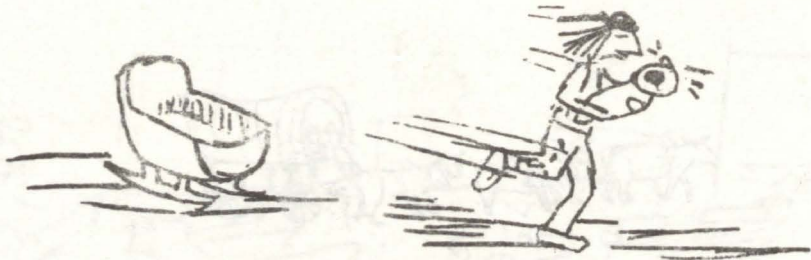
The early settlers in Indiana had no grocery stores, so they had to grow their food or hunt for it, but food was plentiful. There were turkeys, prairie chickens, quail, and wild pigeons. There were deer, bears, squirrels and rabbits in the woods, and all kinds of fish in the streams. Children hunted for sweet acorns, nuts, wild plums, and wild berries. Maple syrup and sugar were made in the spring from the sap of the maple trees. Many pioneer families brought with them a cow a horse or an ox, a few pigs or some sheep.

Corn and potatoes were easily grown, even among the stumpy fields. Cabbages, onions, peas, beans, turnips, squashes, and pumpkins were planted in the gardens. Cornbread was the common bread. Late when a mill was built in the neighborhood, flour was used for bread and cakes.

Pioneer cabins were full of boys and girls, usually ten or twelve children in one family. There was work for all of them, but they had their fun, too.

Their few simple toys were homemade. Adried gourd, its seeds loose inside, made a good rattle for the bady. A top was easely whittled out of wood with a good sharp jackknife. Wood sleds and carts were homemade, too. Hard balls were made by wrapping a stone with yarn and then sewing deerskin around it.

Girls strung seeds and berries for necklaces. Young girls learned to sew and knit as soon as they could hold the needles. The children played "house" as little girls still do. Broken china and stoneware, acorns and shells were dishes. Potatoes and turnips, with sticks for legs, make funny animals.



Pioneer children often had live pets. Every family owned a dog--the men went hunting with them and the children claimed them for lively playmates. The children tamed squirrels, raccoons, opossums, and even crows. Sometimes they kept a fawn or bear cub for a pet until it grew big.

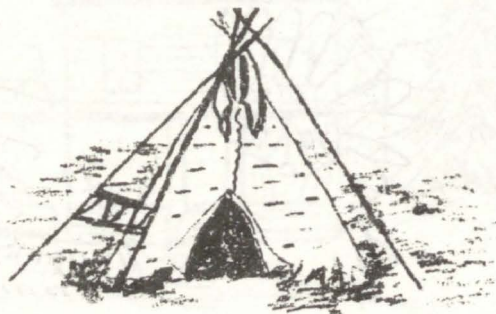
On winter evenings around the fire, young and old were busy at some task. While they worked, the children told riddles, old rhymes and tongue-twisters. They sang hymns and ballads and said verses from the Bible. Corn was popped in the fireplace, and apples were roasted in the hot ashes. No one minded the long winter evenings.

The southern part of Lake County is formed by three townships. Eagle Creek and Cedar Creek and West Creek, and the Kanakakee River joins their southern boundries. These lands bordering on the river, were before the white man came, the favorite stamping grounds of the Pottawatomie tribe of Indians and many Indian relics have been unearthed in this region.

The town of Lowell is in Cedar Creek Township and for many years has been the center trading point for this vicinity and in these three townships there many Indian settlements. There was quite a camp south of the present town of Lowell, also one near what is known as the Jones school house. There was a small settlement in the town just west of the Monon railroad, where the coal sheds now stand. In the winter of 1835-36 there was a large encampment of Indians in the woods of West Creek and a lesser number camped there the following winter. There is a large tree still standing in these woods in which the Indians buried the body of one of their children. They slit a log, hollowed out each side, and after placing the body of the child therein, strapped it the bough of the tree.

In the year 1837 the Indians carried off the infant daughter of David and Elizabeth Pulver. They took the child from a cradle in the house, where she lay sleeping by the side of her twin brother John. The infant was carried to their camp some three miles away, where they concealed it in a covered wagon. As soon as the child was missed the Indians were suspected and gave it up without resistance. Mrs. Edward Ashton, now dead, later became a citizen of Lowell, lived to tell the story.

In the year 1837-38 on an island known as Red Oak Island



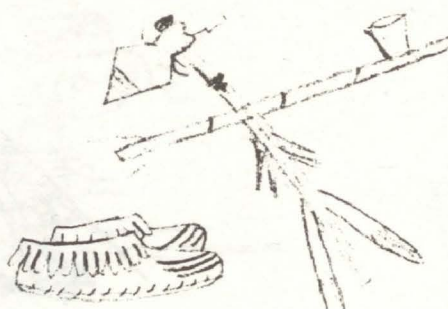
near the Kankakee and in the southern part of Eagle Creek Township was a camp of two hundred Indians, and during the same winter at White Oak Island in the southern part of Cedar Creek Township, also near the river was a camp of 150 Indians. These camping places were called gardens because the Indians there cultivated grapes and some corn. It does not appear that they made wine but used the grapes as a delicious food. Old settlers have said, "That they have never seen larger or finer grapes than those planted by the Indians." There is quite a large and circular mound on the west side of Cedar Lake, one at the south-end of the Lake near Creston, one a short distance north of Lowell and some other evidences of human existence. At Big White Oak Island there were a good many graves and among them six or seven with crosses. There are probably many others over which the plow share has passed and no memorial of them remains.

A large mound was destroyed by the digging of Eagle Creek ditch in 1856. A great many skulls and bones of legs and arms were taken out. In this same locality some parties digging for sand unearthed a vase which is now in the First National Bank at Crown Point, the county seat of Lake County. On Curve Island is the old Indian Battle Ground. The entrenchments of breastworks cover a space of three or four acres, and are almost a perfect circle, with many dip holes within the same. In the year 1884 this was yet all plain to be seen; but when it was made or who did the work, the oldest settler has not even a tradition.

In a high sand mound a few rods south west of the Battle Ground can be found by digging a few feet down, plenty of human bones, old pottery, clam shell, etc. Could these old mounds and relics speak they would no doubt tell a story worth hearing.

The Indians lived in lodges or wigwams. They were made by poles driven into the ground and around the poles was wound a species of matting made from flags and rushes.

The Indian men wore a calico shirt, leggings, moccasins, and a blanket. The squaws wore a broadcloth skirt and a blanket. They toted or packed burdens. The Indians along the marsh kept a good many ponies for use in migrating. They also used canoes for migrating up and down the Kankakee River. During the winter the men were



busy trapping. Fur was abundant and brought a high price on the market. In 1836 it is said that the tribe had dwindled to half its number and few if any remained after 1839.

To us the Pottawatomies have left many of their bones in their known and unknown burial places. One of the peculiar customs of the Pottawatomies was that from their tribe, a selection of their most intelligent women were made and when a council was held, these women sat in a circle and were attentive listeners. None of them were allowed to say anything in the council or to gossip about what they had heard. In this way they indirectly kept a record of their councils and should their warriors fall in battle, there remained within their tribe, an authentic history, and at no time was it possible for the tribe to be without a referee on past events. These women were held in high esteem by all the members of their tribe.

Lake County had become an independent county on February 16, 1837. At this time it was divided into three townships, North, Center and South. On May 9, 1839 the Commissioners divided South Township into the present townships, West Creek, Cedar Creek and Eagle Creek.

Even at this time there were settlements in Cedar Creek Township. There were groups of settlers in the vicinity of what is now Lowell, and in the Cedar Lake, Creston, Orchard Grove and Pleasant Grove neighborhoods.

The southern end of the township was still an almost impenetrable marsh, the high ground of which was inhabited by wandering Indians and a few white fur traders.

In 1852 the town of Lowell was laid out. By this date there was a scattering of settlers over the northern two-thirds of the township. But the south one-third still remained largely in possession of the wild life which abounded there. Even the Indians seem to have almost disappeared from the region.

A short distance north of the Kankakee River, on the west side of the township, was a high ridge of land, they called River Ridge. A few hunters and fishermen had settled here. Over this ridge ran the trail to Momence, the earliest trading point for the southern part of all three Creek Townships.

The development of the township received its greatest impetus,



perhaps, with the coming of the Monon Railroad in 1882. The Three I followed in 1883. And soon thereafter the village of Shelby was laid out by W. R. Shelby, President of the Lake Agricultural Company.

Attempts at ditching the marsh met with little success until the coming of the steam dredge. In the late eighties a ditch was dug through the marsh, and a road laid out from Orchard Grove to Water Valley, and the Kankakee River was spanned by a wagon bridge. Cedar Creek township was thus given an outlet to the south.

Space permits only a mention of the many improvements the twentieth century has brought, the draining of the marsh, the coming of the State Roads, the development of the beautiful Lake Dalecarlia Community and many others which make Cedar Creek a modern progressive community.

Lowell is situated in the northwest corner of Indiana, 12 miles south of the county seat, Crown Point, and 50 miles from the great trading and railroad center, Chicago.

In the year 1836, a John P. Hoff of New York City purchased a tract of land - - "Mill seat on Cedar Creek" Section 23, Range 9, Township 23. On the day October 7, 1836, four more claims were registered for New York men. These were located in sections 22, 23, 24. None of these men ever actually settled here.

In August, 1835 a claim had been made by Samuel Halstead on Section 23, Township 33, Range 9. So far as known this Mr. Halstead was not related to M. A. Halstead the real founder of Lowell.

The claim above mentioned of Samuel Halstead was sold to a J. P. Hoff who failed to comply with the conditions; thus he forfeited the claim. On November 29, 1836, this claim was transferred to Mark Burroughs and James Whitney for \$212.00.

The "Mill Seat" as it was called remained unimproved until approximately 1850.

Jonah Thorn started the first store in 1852 which he operated for four years as a small general store. He then took J. W. Viant as a partner and they continued for a short time, possibly six months. Mr. Thorn sold his share to Mr. Merton and after three years, Mr. Viant took over the entire business which he managed alone until 1881, when he sold out.



The second store was started by W. Sigler in 1854, and the third store was started by H. D. Mudge in 1855. This was a clothing store but later changed to a general store.

Theodore Burnham was the first blacksmith in the town and the first tavern was kept by Jonah Thorn. The first regular hotel was built and used for school purposes for about two years. In 1861 it was bought by Jabez Clark, rented to David Stringer for a couple of years when it became the property of George Mee.

The first hardware and tin store was operated by J. W. Viant in connection with his general store.

In 1868 a large brick building was built for a woolen mill, by Halstead. It was the intention of Lapin & Co. to make it into the most extensive woolen mills in the state, but their original plan met with defeat owing to rise in the price of the wool and decline in sale of woolen goods manufactured.

In 1837 the Home Mfg. Co. took charge of the building and operated as a factory, for farm implements such as cultivators, harrows, plows, wagons, etc. This was put to defeat because of non-paying business, thus the property was used to pay debts and the building sold on mortgage to Lapin and Westerman, whose ownership was lost on mortgage, within 5 years; it then fell into the hands of county commissioners.

In the earlier days trees were grubbed for building bridges and cabins. The forests were inhabited by wolves, panthers, foxes, rabbits and squirrels.

The roads leading to trading centers such as Chicago and Valparaiso were only dirt and at times were almost impossible to travel. In the winter the roads were very perilous due to deep snows and drifts.

Indians did not live here at such a late period, although many tribes would travel through the town and many times they would camp for weeks at a time.

Among the first doctors to locate in Lowell was Dr. James A. Wood, followed by Dr. John Hunt, 1855, who remained 3 years; Dr. Crane 1858-1859, Dr. A. A. Gerrish 1865, Dr. E. R. Bacon, 1867 until death in 1906; Dr. J. E. Davis 1868, until death.



The following newspapers have been published here: Lowell Star, Lowell Local News, Lowell Enterprise, Lowell Record, Lowell Gazette, Lowell Souvenir, and now the Lowell Tribune.

The first railroad was built through Lowell 1880, by the Louisville, New Albany and Chicago. They did some freight and passenger business in 1880 but regular runs did not go into effect and on schedule until 1881. Lowell still maintains just one railroad.

The Christian Church of Lowell was organized in 1841. Until such time as they had a church building they met in the homes of members. In 1837 the Methodists organized a class and until 1849 meetings were held in private homes and school houses. In 1870 they completed a brick church at a cost of \$4000. On January 20, 1856 the Baptist Church was organized and built. The Catholics held their first meeting 1865 at the home of John Hack. In 1871 a frame building was erected, but was not finished for about a year at a cost of approximately \$1000.

The first Grade School building was erected by M. A. Halsted, and the present Junior High School was built south of the main business district on a hill, with a beautiful wood setting, in the year of 1916.

On October 4, 1898, a terrible fire destroyed many of the business places of Lowell, and again Nov. 7, 1903 a terrible disaster cast a gloom over the entire community when fire broke out in the rear of the Frank L. Hunt Drug Store, and into the rooms of the telephone company, taking the lives of Mabel and Abbie Simpsen, two prominent young ladies who were on duty as telephone operators.

Lowell had two secure bands serving the people and in 1930-31 when the depression hit the country and money was scarce, the Lowell National Bank purchased the assets of the First National Bank.

One of the older firms in business today is a general store, groceries and dry goods owned and operated by Robt. Grant. The building was put up by Perry Clark in 1899 and later taken over by James and Thomas Grant, who did much to make Lowell a bigger and better town.

Another firm of long standing is that of the Van Weaver family.



The undertaking business was always outstanding in quality and workmanship as well as in good honest dealing. The beautiful funeral home on Commercial Avenue is a tribute of respect and honor to the late Mr. and Mrs. Van Weaver. The funeral home is under the present management of the John Eskridge's.

In 1905 the Martin Schur Undertaking and Furniture store was bought by W. Sheets and wife and has always been one of high standard, with a personal service to help all, in their time of need and sorrow. The Kenneth Sheets' are present owners.

In the summer of 1900 a beautiful monument was erected at the north west corner of the public square in honor of heroes who made their sacrifice on the Civil War, Spanish American, Mexican and the War of 1812. This memorial was a work of art, made and set up by the Clark Brothers, a product of the Clark Monument Co. The monument records the names of those who have either gone forth alive to defend their country, or whose bodies have been buried within the area of West Creek, Cedar Creek and Eagle Creek townships, as well as the services of Mrs. Abbie Cutler, the devoted nurse of the Union army and the first wife of Dr. A. S. Cutler.

Melvin A. Halsted, pioneer, builder, adventurer and founder of Lowell, was born in Rensselaer County, New York, March 29, 1821. The ancestry of the family can be traced back to William the Conqueror. His great grandfather was a Baptist minister and a large land owner in New York. His father, William Halsted farmed an estate on the bank of the Hudson River. It was here that the boy, Melvin until he was fourteen years old, attended the public schools and later the high school at Bennington, Vermont.

He moved to Dayton, Ohio in 1837 and in May 1842 was married to Martha C. Foster. They continued their residence in Dayton until 1845, at the end of which time they came to Lake County, Indiana locating in West Creek township. After three years, they came to what is now the town of Lowell.

According to the Claim Register, one John P. Hoff, of New York City, purchased "Mill seat on Cedar Creek," Range 9, Town 33, Section 23, which is the section on which Lowell now stands, Oct. 7, 1836. He registered his claim October 8th, and claims for four



others from New York City were registered the same day in sections 22, 23, and 24. None of these city men seem to have actually settled; instead of these are found the names of W. A. Purdy, H. R. Nichols J. Mendenhall, and Jabez Clark, But the "mill seat" remained unimproved till about 1850. It is a somewhat singular coincidence that the first claimant of a mill seat on Sect. 23, T. 33, R. 9, should have been named Halstead. According to the claim register, Samuel Halstead first entered here "Timber and Mill-seat." The claim was made August 1835, and was registered November 26, 1836. There is added, "This claim was sold to and registered by J. P. Hoff, October 8, who has not complied with his contract, and therefore forfeits his claim to it." And under date of November 29, 1836, the record is "Transferred to James M. Whitney and Mark Burroughs for \$212."

Finally, in 1848, O. E. Haskins and M. A. Halsted purchased a mill site from a canal company and by January 1 of 1849 had a small sawmill in operation. This mill was west of the Halsted house, still standing on West Main Street.

For a while, the Halsted family lived in a cabin near the present Monon Depot. During the year of 1849, Mr. Halsted burned 400,000 bricks and began building his dwelling which was finished in the spring of 1850. This was the third structure in Lowell. The house, a mansion in its day, is still a fine home at the corner of Main and Halsted Streets. In 1852, Mr. Halsted laid out 16 lots and presented them to mechanics, but none ever settled here.

Mr. Halsted, lured by the discovery of gold in California, crossed the very dangerous and deadly plains, in one hundred days, accomplishing part of the journey with ox teams and the remainder of the trip with mule teams. Having made quite a fortune he returned to Lowell in 1852 and began the erection of a flouring mill hauling all of the machinery from Chicago in wagons.

That same year, 1852, presumably through Mr. Halsted's influence a small brick school house, twenty by thirty feet, was erected near the intersection of Clark Street and Commercial Avenue. This building was also used as a church. The mill under construction in 1852, was completed and put into operation by 1853. It received patronage from a large area, and the milling of flour became an important industry.



In the fall of this same year, 1853, Mr. Halsted laid out the town in sixteen lots and gave away many plots to his mechanics and others in order to induce settlement. The flouring mill erected in 1852 and 1853 was an important factor in attracting settlers. He thus became the Founder of Lowell. Surveys for street levels, sidewalks and real estate transfers were all a part of his planning. Mr. Halsted named the village Lowell presumably because it's water facilities and milling industries resembled those of Lowell, Mass.

In 1856 the Baptist church was built also of brick, under the supervision of Mr. Halsted at a cost of \$2000. This he later deeded to the Baptist church.

In January 1864, Mr. Halsted visited Washington D.C. where he obtained the assistance of Vice-President Colfax in getting the first daily mail for Lowell. As a result of his visit, a stage coach route was established between Crown Point and Lowell.

During the year 1867, Mr. Halsted was elected trustee of Cedar Creek township and by 1872 Lowell had the largest and best grade school building in the county, a commodious, two-story brick edifice costing, with the furniture, \$8000.

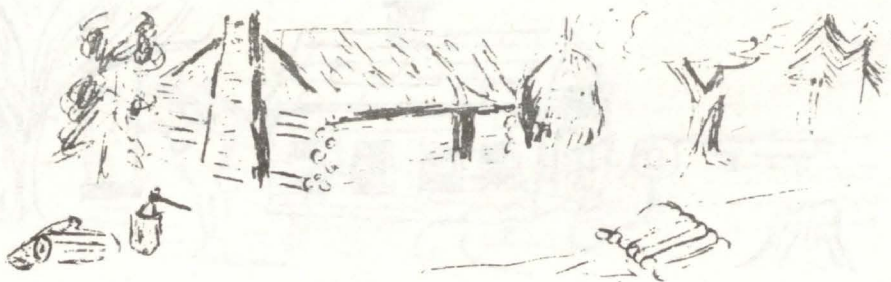
Perhaps, the greatest achievement of these years was the securing of the railroad for Lowell. The drive was begun in 1874 and through his persistent effort and unselfish financial loss, the town and community has long enjoyed the benefits of the Monon Railroad. On the day the first railroad engine crossed the Main Street in Lowell, Melvin A. Halsted was saluted as the "railroad king" of that day.

Mrs. Martha Halsted passed away in 1899 and in 1906 he married Mrs. Palmer Cross who lived only five years.

Two sons were born to Martha and Melvin Halsted, William, a resident of Kansas and Theron, who lived in Lowell for several years but later became a resident of Boston.

The spirit of adventure played a great part in Mr. Halsted's life as was evidenced by the seven trips to California and other places. These travels were always for the purpose of promoting some business project.

Mr. Halsted passed away in Auburn, Kansas at the age of 93 years, 11 months and 25 days. He was a charter member of Masonic Lodge of Lowell and interment was made in the West Creek Cemetery.



with Masonic rites.

M.A. Halsted was the founder of Lowell. The first building on the site of Lowell was the cabin of Samuel Halstead. Jabez Clark was the second man to build a cabin in Lowell. He pre-empted a quarter section of land and their cabin stood where the First Baptist Church was erected and where Dr. Robert Corns office now stands. He was the father of seven children.

John Driscoll our first farmer, came to this area in 1835 and pre-empted a quarter section of land southeast of Lowell and here he lived until his death. He was the father of six children.

Horatio R. Nichols came to Lowell in 1836. He and his brother purchased the Nolan Claim, the Nolan cabin standing on what is now known as Washington Street on the west side. This claim was purchased for \$250 and included a large share of the site of Lowell. He married Miss Eliza Kenyon and three sons and three daughters were born.

Dr. James A. Wood came to Lowell in 1837. He located one mile east of Lowell. He practiced here continually and through the surrounding country, except during the civil war, when he was a surgeon in the union army. The doctor enjoyed an extensive practice and has ridden and driven over the Prairies, through the swamps and streams of Northern Indiana for almost half a century.

Other early doctors were Dr. A.A. Gerrish who came in 1865. Dr. E.R. Bacon came in 1867. Dr. J.E. Davis in 1868. These all enjoyed a lucrative practice and gained a host of friends and were still practicing physicians at the time of their deaths.

The first store was started by Johah Thorn in 1852.

About 1843, Outlet Post Office was established and located about one mile east of Lowell, with James H. Sanger Sr. as Postmaster. He kept it for some years when it was moved to a point about one half-mile west and kept by Leonard Stringham. This building is still standing but has been remodeled. The first newspaper was the Lowell Star edited by E.R. Beebie.

Jonah Thorn opened the first business place in Lowell. Of his early life, Jonah Thorn was born at Warrenburg, near Saulsbury, Wiltshire England, December 31, 1813. Jonah, in 1832 at the age of 19 came with his brother, Franklin, to Canada. There he met and married



Miss Phoebe Richmond and to them were born two daughters

While the children were very small, the Jonah Thorn family moved into the United States, living for a short time in Ohio. Late in 1842 they moved into Lake County, Indiana where he found the opportunity he sought, and here he chose to live the remainder of his life.

In the year 1852, about the time of the plotting of the new town and the renaming "Outlet" to Lowell, Mr. Thorn built and operated the first small frame hotel and general store. The location of this business was on the south side of Main Street between the present Frank Maloy and Kanaar homes, back from the street.

Mr. Thorn's wife died at the age of 47. The daughters were married at this time.

In about 1855 a general store was opened on the county road (not Commercial Avenue). Mr. Thorn closed his "mill district" store and opened a hardware store on the county road also, at the present location of the Roberts' law office. Mr. Thorn lived during this period on the north side of the county road. He was a successful business man and his daughters were inclined to have a knowledge of good management in business affairs as well as in their homes. Therefore, the business district grew on Commercial Avenue.

Mr. Thorn remarried, was a widower several times. In 1854 he married the widow of Jabez Clark and they lived in a duplex house on the west side of Lowell. Their late years, following his retirement, were peacefully spent among their family who lived in the vicinity of the brick yard, then owned and operated by Perry Clark.

In 1899, at the age of 85 years and 8 months, Jonah Thorn died at his home and was buried in the old part of the Lowell Cemetery beside his first wife, and marked by the Thorn monument.

The first Cedar Creek township school was built on the Drake farm later purchased by Thomas Dickinson. The site lies south of Lowell on the East bank of Cedar Creek.

Richard Cannon, the first of the Cedar Creek school masters, is recalled in pioneer records, as thorough in teaching and punishing, as well. Cannon was a crippled little man and taught but one term in this small hut built of logs and poles, and that before 1839. On this spot a larger school was built (Egypt School) where the children



and grandchildren of the same Thomas Dickinson received their common-school training and where one daughter, Minerva; one daughter-in-law, Minnie Ebert Dickinson, and one grandson, Charles E. Dickinson, at widely separated intervals, taught for a number of years. School was discontinued there in the spring 1927.

White men settled in the "Egypt" community in the early 1830's because of the soil's workability. Before the clay farms to the north of what is now Lowell were drained at all, a season in which there was a late spring or an early frost would spoil their corn crops, rendering the grain unfit for feed, seed or meal. The warmer, sandier soil just above the Kankakee marshland never failed to mature corn. The farmers north of Lowell made many trips to the farms south of Lowell and one day a farmer jokingly said when asked where he was going, "I'm going to Egypt to buy corn." It became a common name which fastened itself to the community, even to this day.

Quote from the Lake County Souvenir Issue of 1934, "Outstanding in the development of Lowell's public schools, if one man may be chosen, was H.H. Ragon, who came from Ohio in Civil War times. He taught for many years before assuming editorship of the Lowell Tribune."

On January 20, 1856 the Baptist Church was organized to be known as the First Baptist Church of Lowell. Reverend T H. Ball, by a vote of the church became its first pastor. Meetings were held in the school house during the year 1856 and it was the same year that M.A. Halsted built and deeded the Baptists a brick church. When it was finished it cost \$2000. There had been a Baptist Church organization in West Creek but they disbanded and came to Lowell.

In the summer of 1837, the Methodists organized a class in this vicinity. The services were held at the homes of the settlers during the week. The Church was a mission until 1841, when it became a circuit. Regular services were kept in the homes and in the school house until 1849 when they built a frame church a mile and three-quarter east of Lowell on the farm of H. Sanger who gave them the land. The society next came to Lowell where services were held in the school house and the Baptist Church. In 1870 they completed their first brick church at the cost of \$4000.

The Christian Church of Lowell, was organized in 1811. The



first meeting was held at the home of William Walls, where the society was organized. The present building was begun in 1869 and the first services were held in February 1870. The cost of the building at that time was about \$4000 but it was remodeled in 1914 into a large and up to date church.

The Catholics held their first meeting at the home of John Hack, in the year 1865. The second service was held in Siglers Hall in 1868. At this meeting the church was organized and held its meetings in the brick factory for a year or more. A frame church was built in 1871 but not completed for several years. This building was burned and was replaced.

It is interesting to note some early Lowell ordinances.

June 5, 1871 It was unlawful for anyone to ride or drive on any streets or alleys in the corporation of Lowell at a faster rate than six miles an hour. Unlawful to play or bat balls on Clark Street or Public Square.

October 10, 1868 A pound was ordained and it was unlawful to let run at large in the corporation horses, cattle, sheep or hogs.

July 10, 1871 Marshal shall receive 17¢ per head for impounding cattle.

August 28, 1880 All bowery dances were taxed \$300 per day and all candy stores, \$200 per day, except national holidays, on which bowery dances will be \$500 and candy stands \$250.

February 13, 1888 On complaint of John Hack an ordinance was passed that barbed wire fence should not be allowed along any sidewalk within the corporation.

August 13, 1888 Restriction made on boys and young men loafing around the Depot of the L.N.A. and C.R.R. also jumping on and off trains.

April 4, 1892 Town trustees ordered the public square to be fenced. Said fence to be of cedar posts and gas pipes to be 2 inches in size.

July 5, 1892 All weeds along streets and on vacant lots over one foot tall be declared as a nuisance and cut by property owners.

October 4, 1897 Unlawful to leave a team upon the streets or on unenclosed land within the corporation.



June 5, 1871 Moved that going in swimming in the state of nudity in the daylight be prohibited under the penalty of not to exceed three dollars.

The growth of the community has been steady In the 1830's the population was about 550 At the 1960 census, the town numbered 2,270 residents up 40 percent from the 1,621 residents reported at the 1950 census. The census inventory by age groups reported for 1960 indicated that the town was increasing its percentage of young people compared to the similar 1950 inventory. Since 1960 the town has continued to grow Growth has generally been in an east-west direction along Highway 2 bringing the town closer to U.S. 41. The 1970 census gives a population of about 6,000 and growing.

Our town has grown in size and respectability from the year of 1845 This community of ours has continued to progress and endure through hardships, massive changes, and upheaval. We have survived much as a community and as a nation. But now in this bicentennial year, we must review the greatness of our heritage, and realize how fortunate we are to have the rights to life, liberty and happiness. We must remember that our own democracy is founded on the idea that all men are created equal We are able to learn more about ourselves and other people, knowing that knowledge leads to understanding and that understanding leads to friendship and good will

The night before he died Franklin D. Roosevelt had been working on a radio address to the nation His last words carry a message for all Americans He wrote that if the world is to survive "...We must cultivate the science of human relationships - - the ability of all people, of all kinds, to live together in the same world, in peace."

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